

TESTIMONY  
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## UNITED COUNCIL

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

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### STUDENTS APPLAUD EXTENSION FOR INPUT

**Public Hearing - SB184-** United Council of UW Students applauds Senate Bill 184 that will increase time for input on the Special Task Force on UW Restructuring and Operational Flexibilities to January of 2013.

There has been no overhaul of the UW System of this extent since the “merger” that first created the UW System on October 11, 1971. During this time period, many current state legislators were attending the UW schools. Students like Bob Jauch, who was the Student Body President of Eau Claire, and Joan Ballweg, who was an active Stevens Point student. Lee Sherman Dreyfus was the Governor and a former Chancellor with a red vest. That red vest he wore was a symbol of visibility and transparency as he walked among the students, faculty, and staff. They all knew him and who he was by sight of the vest alone, and it reflected his commitment to the many people who make up a UW institution.

During the creation of the UW System, shared governance was written into state statute and brought together administration, faculty and students together in sharing the responsibility of governing the university. Students have treasured this responsibility and have stepped up to the challenges throughout the years to work with other governance bodies on their campuses and system-wide to make our university system a world class system of higher education.

The Task Force is looking at several important areas of the University of Wisconsin System, from tuition of students, the ability to transfer credits, the Governance Structure, compensation plans and personnel systems, and the operational flexibilities. All of these will directly affect the lives of current and future students, and very well direct the future of Wisconsin. Will Wisconsinites be able to attend the University of Wisconsin System, or will tuition be too high? Will Wisconsinites be able to have the best teachers, professors, and staff, or will their wages not be competitive?

This task force will decide the future of Wisconsin.

The United Council of UW Students is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that is directed by a board comprised wholly of students who are elected by students from the two-year UW Colleges, four-year comprehensive universities, and the four-year research institutions in the UW System. United Council currently has over 150,000 student members at 21 member Campuses. We strive to get students involved in the process of governing the Universities and helping share that governing responsibility.

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United Council of UW Students’ mission is to represent all students of the UW System and advocate for them on issues of higher education pertaining to value, quality and the student experience.

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